

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS FOR RABIES EXAMINATION

*Complete one form for each animal submitted.
All copies of the form **MUST** be legible.*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Specimens submitted for laboratory testing are restricted to those animals which have bitten or exposed a human or domestic animal, or to surveillance specimens approved by the local health department (all animals) or a veterinarian (domestic animals only).

State and local governments are not responsible for costs associated with specimen preparation or delivery unless prior arrangements for payment have been made with the proper government authorities.

Packaging for Transport

1. If the animal is larger than a squirrel (e.g., muskrat, dog, cat, raccoon, etc.), **ONLY THE HEAD OF THE ANIMAL** will be accepted for examination.
2. The specimen should be placed in a watertight container such as a heavy plastic bag and this in turn placed in a leakproof unbreakable container. The space between the two containers should be packed with ice or cold packs. The specimen should be in a separate container from the ice or cold packs. **DO NOT FREEZE THE SPECIMEN** and **DO NOT USE DRY ICE** in shipment.
3. A Rabies Examination Request Form should be completed and placed in an envelope attached to or inside the transport container but separate from the ice/cold packs and the specimens.
4. **BATS** may be submitted alive, however if so, they should be packaged in an escape proof container (i.e., coffee can with tight fitting lid) and labeled: **"CAUTION-LIVE BAT."**

Delivery of Specimens

1. Deliver to: **New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Public Health and Environmental Laboratories
Health and Agriculture Building
Corners of Market and Warren Streets
PO Box 360
Trenton, New Jersey**

See the map on the reverse side of this sheet.

2. Private delivery services can be used to deliver specimens, but they must be sent directly to the Rabies Laboratory for arrival on non-holiday weekdays. Specimens should be packaged in insulated containers to maintain refrigerated temperatures during transit.

Working Hours

1. Regular hours– 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Persons submitting specimens shall proceed to the loading dock area and use the telephone next to the loading dock doors to call laboratory receiving personnel at 2-7879 for specimen pickup.
2. Other hours, weekends, and holidays
Only hand-delivered specimens will be accepted after regular working hours. Specimens shall be presented to the security guard at the main entrance to the Health-Agriculture Building. The guard will escort the person to a cold storage holding area for specimen delivery.

To order additional "Request for Rabies Examination" Forms (VIR-16), contact Central Supply at 609-292-5481.